



PHAA Benjamin Glass photo

USS Nimitz (CVN 68) pulls up to Pearl Harbor’s hotel pier the morning of Nov. 3. while on its way to San Diego, Calif.

USS Nimitz (CVN 68) visits Pearl Harbor

USS Nimitz (CVN 68) pulled into Pearl Harbor Nov. 3. Nimitz departed Norfolk, Va. in September 2001 en route to San Diego, Calif. as result of it becoming its new homeport. To make the move to its new home, Nimitz had to circumnavigate around the continent of South America.

The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier recently completed a three-year overhaul project at Newport News Shipyard on June 25. Both of the ships’ nuclear reactors were refueled and significant modernization improvements were made to the 26 year-old warship. This was the ship’s one and only refueling in an estimated 50-year life span.

F/A-18 Hornets from the embarked reserve air wing (CVWR-20) conducted air-engagement exercises with A-4 Skyhawks from the Brazilian Navy as well as launch and recovery operations in early October as the aircraft carrier transited South along coast of Brazil. Nimitz continued to engage in bi-lateral exercises with forces from Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Peru as the ship made its way to around South America.

USS Nimitz, the lead ship of its class, is nearly 1,100 feet long and displaces over 95 ,000 tons. The U.S. Navy currently has eight Nimitz class carriers in commission, and a ninth is under construction.

The keel of USS Nimitz was laid on June 22, 1968 at Newport News Shipbuilding. It was christened on May 13, 1972 by Mrs. Catherine Nimitz Lay, daughter of the ship’s namesake, Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, and commissioned in 1975. Admiral Nimitz, served as the Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas from Dec. 31, 1941 - Nov. 24, 1945.



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On its way to the pier, USS Nimitz passes by many historical sights. In the foreground, the Battleship Missouri rests at its mooring at Ford Island.



While out to sea, a “shooter” launches an FA-18 off the deck of USS Nimitz.

USS Nimitz photo



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A Sailor takes a moment to reflect while looking off USS Nimitz’s fantail.



PH2 Lisa Aman photo

USS Nimitz passes Pearl Harbor’s Hospital Point as it pulls into the harbor.